Creation of new Railway Zones

1411. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to create new zones asnd new Railway Division during 1996-97;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal pending in that regard from different States;

(c) whether Government had a proposal to create a separate railway zone exclusively for Orissa and also to create a new Railway Division at Rourkela; and

(d) if so, the steps taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) to (d) A number of proposals had been/are being received for setting up of zones and divisions at various locations including a zone in Orissa and a division at Rourkela.

The Government has decided to set up six zonal railway headquarters at Allahabad, Jabalpur, Bangalore, Hajipur, Jaipur and Bhubaneswar. Eight new Divisions are planned to be set up at Agra, Pune, Singrauli, Rangiya, Guntur, Raipur, Ranchi and Ahmedabad.

Gauge conversion in North and South India

1412. SHRI MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of gauge conversion carried out in North India and South India during the last 4 years and this year;

(b) the gauge conversion proposed for the next five years; and

(c) by when the conversion work will be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) The Details are given in the Annexure [See *Appendix* 178, *Annexure* No. 378]

(b) 9th Plan has not yet been finalised.

An Action Plan has been drawn identifying 14,500 Kms. of MG/NG lines for conversion to BG. Out of this, 5533 Kms. have been converted to BG upto 31.03.96. The lines so far included in Action Plan will be completed in the earlier half of the 10th Plan.

Electrification of Delhi-Lucknow Railway Line

1413. SHRI RAJ BABBAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to electrify the Delhi-Lucknow railway line; and

(b) if so, the reasons for delay in the implementation of this project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) and (b) There are two routes between Delhi and Lacknow. One of them is via Kanpur and second via Moradabad. Major portion of the first route from Delhi to Kanpur is already electrified. There is however no proposal for electrifying Kanpur-Lucknow, as well as the other route via Moradabad due to constraint of resources.

Laying of foundation stones for new rail Projects

1414. SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the former Minister of Railways had laid foundation stones of 85 new rail projects upto March 1996;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating therein the names, cost, present position and the date of completion;

(c) whether all these projects were cleared by Government; if not, the reasons for bypassing the procedure laid down by Government and names of those projects; and

(d) whether finances for all these projects would be made available in the budget for 1996-97, if not, what will be the position of those projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHAJRAJ): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not airse.

Timing of Reservation counters at Secunderabad and Hyderabad

1415. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS pleased to state:

(a) what are the steps proposed to be taken to have 24-hour reservation counters at Secunderabad and Hyderabad; and

(b) whether it is a fact that reservation counters at these places are open only during day time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) and (b) The reservation at Secunderabad and Hyderabad is on computerised Reservation System. The working hours of the reservation counters in the computerised passenger reservation offices on Indian Railways including Secunderabad and Hyderabad are from 08.00 to 20.00 hours, on all week days and from 08.00 hours to 14.00 hours on Sundays. After these hours the computer system has to be utilised for generating accounting reports and performing other critical functions which need to be carried out prior to the opening of reservation on the subsequent day.

Norms for Import of Fertilisers

1416. SHRI JOY NADUKKARA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS be pleased to State:

(a) what is the quantity of fertilizers iimported during the last three years, yearwise;

(b) whether there are any prescribed norms for the imports;

(c) whether any violation of such norms has come to the notice of the Government; if so, the action taken in this regard; and

(d) what is the proposal to check such violation in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) The quantities of major fertilizers imported during the last three years are given below:—

Qty in Lakh tonnes

Year	UREA	MOP*	DAP*
1993-94	28.40	14.28	15.69
1994-95	28.84	18.48	8.25
1995-96	37.82	21.92	14.06

*Figures of imports made after decontrol and decanalisation are only approximations.

(b) All fertilizers distributed for agricultural use in the country are required to conform to norms prescribed in the Fertilizer (Control) Order, 1985 (FCO). Import of urea is canalised while imports of DAP and MOP are decanalised since September '92 and June '93 respectively.

(c) and (d) In the case of imported fertilizers, samples are drawn by the Fertilizers Inspectors of the Central and State Governments and analysed for quality checks in the Central and State laboratories set up for the prupose.